

They are still doing it. Some of us said they would have to. They have bent over so far backwards to get an agreement with the largest state supporter of terrorism in the world that, once Iran continued to violate even to the point of taking our sailors prisoner, violating the Geneva Convention rules on prisoners—humiliating the prisoners—not only did this administration not send more Navy forces to take back the Navy sailors who were imprisoned, but it gushed about how wonderful Iran was to take charge of our sailors as the videos emerged—mocking America as they treated our Navy sailors as just trash.

Then we get this story by Bradley Klapper: “U.S. Considers Easing Ban on Dollars to Help Iran.”

This administration wants to turn around and give Iran—the largest state supporter of terrorism—access to our dollars. Apparently, that would mean access to Internet sites, to bank sites when they know they have been hacking us. They are trying to figure out ways to bring down the United States, and now this administration wants to help them to show how good of friends we can be? That is like trying to convince a bully on the playground that you will keep giving him money because you are his dear friend. He will keep taking your money, but he will never see you as a friend. Not only does he not see you as a friend, but the more you give him, the more contempt he has for you as a coward.

This article today from Caroline May reads: “Mother of Daughter Killed by Illegal: His Bail was ‘Less Than it Cost to Bury My Baby.’”

“The mother of a recent college graduate, who was killed by an illegal immigrant who later absconded after posting bail and remains at large, offered emotional testimony Tuesday before a House panel.

“Michelle Root, the mother of 21-year-old Sarah Root, spoke about the devastation of losing her daughter at the hands of Eswin Mejia, an illegal immigrant who killed Root while street racing drunk.” This is different from the story we talked about yesterday. “Mejia was able to flee when Immigration and Customs Enforcement declined to detain him, and he was able to post bail.

“‘Eswin spent 4 days in jail and is believed to have fled the country,’ Michelle Root said. ‘He posted \$5,000 bond, which was less than the cost it was to bury my daughter Sarah. Because of the lack of controls, the police, immigration, U.S. Marshals, and law enforcement have little or no information on his whereabouts.’

“‘Eswin was not a stranger to law enforcement and failed to honor his legal obligations for minor traffic infractions prior to killing my daughter. Now a failed local judicial system that set his bail too low, coupled with flawed Obama administration policies, have rewarded the illegal and punished my family and hampered law enforcement in their investigations.’”

There are plenty of good reasons to wait for a different nominee for the Supreme Court. We won't even make them wait 10 years like the Democrats in the Senate made my friends. We won't make them wait 4 or 5 years as Senate Democrats did my friends before they would give them a confirmation. In setting records for unconstitutionality in such a short time, it bears our being diligent when the administration is not. People's lives are at stake. They have already been lost. More are at stake. We have got to stand up.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MACARTHUR). Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward Members of the Senate and to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President, including by repeating extraneous material that would be improper if spoken in the Member's own words.

AMERICAN PROSPERITY AGENDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. PETERS) for 30 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, Americans have seen a change in our economy firsthand and are concerned about what it means for their place in a new economy. We can't stop the forces that are transforming our economy and our world, but we can and we must look to the future to find the solutions that adapt to this new economy. We can't live in the past. This means boosting the creation of high-quality jobs by lowering barriers for small businesses to succeed and investing in infrastructure and research. It also means giving Americans the skills to work the jobs of the future that are being created.

In March 2015, the New Democrat Coalition released *Winning the Future*, which outlines how we can grow our economy, preserve the American Dream, and make government work better for the people.

The principles presented in the agenda and report represent ideas that anyone—Democrat, Republican, Independent—can support. The recently released report consists of 200 legislative actions, including items for every one of our Members. More than 57 percent of those bills—110 in total—are bipartisan, and more than 30 bills have advanced through a committee of the House or through the House as a whole.

More than 20 items in the report have become law or have been implemented by an executive agency.

This represents not just a plan but tangible progress. Today, we will share what that means for growing the economy in every town and city in America and for helping hardworking Americans thrive in the changing global economy.

Federal funding for research and development has been on a downward trend for the past several decades. Today, the Federal Government spends almost two-thirds less on research and development than it did in 1965 as a portion of discretionary spending. The lack of funding has led to a \$1.5 trillion investment deficit, and a growing number of America's best young researchers are taking their talents to other industries and to other countries.

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We need to reinvest in our young researchers to remain globally competitive.

On that subject, I yield to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. KILMER).

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, the date was October 4, 1957, and the time was 7:28 p.m. when the Soviet Union launched Sputnik 1. It was a wake-up call to the United States, and it was perceived as an existential threat.

The reaction to that was a focus by our Federal Government on national research, on basic research to drive innovation, to step up to that perception of threat. The outcome of that was extraordinary scientific breakthroughs. I often point to the cell phone in my pocket.

A lot of the technologies in that cell phone, from the lithium battery that powers it, to the touch screen that allows me to navigate on it, to the Internet that helps me find a delicious Chinese restaurant to go have dinner, to the GPS system that helps me navigate my way to that restaurant—all of those innovations, the basic research behind it was funded by the exact same venture capitalist, Uncle Sam.

Part of the American Prosperity Agenda that the New Democrat Coalition has put forward is focused on redoubling our investment in basic research, because the reality is that we don't have Sputnik being launched by the former Soviet Union.

The reality is we face a Sputnik moment every single day with the threat of new innovation happening somewhere else and jobs being created somewhere else.

You heard my friend suggest that research and development, as a percentage of gross domestic product since the early 1960s, has declined by nearly two-thirds just in these last four decades.

In contrast, you have seen China substantially increase its investment in higher education. In fact, according to the National Science Board, by 2022, China will invest more in research and development than the United States of America.

China has now surpassed the United States as the world's largest exporter of high technology. So every single day we are facing a Sputnik moment.

And the reality is, while the 20th century was defined by an arms race and a race for military might, the 21st century race is for brains and for research and development.

So that downward trajectory of investment in Federal research is something that, as part of the New Democrats' American Prosperity Agenda, we are seeking to stem. We want to revitalize investment in basic research and reauthorize what was known as the America COMPETES Act, which was passed by this body in a bipartisan form less than a decade ago.

That came out of a report by The National Academies called "Rising Above the Gathering Storm" that suggested that, if the United States was going to compete as a Nation, we had to significantly increase America's investment in research and development. Unfortunately, since the passage of that act, you have not seen Congress keep up with that.

On the wall of my office and on the wall of the office where I worked when I worked in economic development professionally, we had a sign up that said: We are competing with everyone, everywhere, every day forever.

That is true not just when you look at folks working in local economic development in Tacoma, Washington. It is true with regard to our Nation today. We are in a global competition.

Steve Jobs before he passed said: "Innovation distinguishes between a leader and follower." I think it is important that the United States maintains its economic leadership and its leadership in innovation.

Lord knows, there are extraordinary challenges that still need to be tackled. Climate change could be 2016's Sputnik moment. Investing in breakthroughs in green technology. Increasing energy independence.

Not only will those innovations lead to solving our world's problems, they will create jobs here in the United States of America.

Paul Otellini, who was the former CEO of Intel, said: Without raising our game in Federal research, the next big thing won't be invented here and the jobs associated with that innovation won't be created here.

I think we can do better, I think we need to do better, and I think the American Prosperity Agenda that the New Democrat Coalition has put forward suggests a better path.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. KILMER for his leadership on this and for coming to join us today.

Speaking of climate change and those kinds of issues, front and center in the changing economy in this decade is a fundamental shift in the way that we provide power for our economy.

It is time to fully embrace the transition to a clean energy economy to reduce our alliance on foreign fuels, to

create high-quality jobs, and to protect our environment.

Last year New Dems helped to extend tax credits for the investment in production of solar and wind power. This will drive an estimated \$70 billion in private sector investment in wind and solar energy.

The wind and solar that will get built as a result of this investment will reduce emissions the equivalent of taking every American car off the road for 2 years.

New Democrats have put forward proposals to invest in alternative energy research in the military and further expand the deployment of clean energy across the country.

New Democrats are working to move the country forward to a clean energy economy that gives our children a better chance at a future with cleaner air, cleaner water, and economic prosperity.

The Harvard Business School's United States Competitiveness Project outlines eight actions it recommends that Congress take to make America the most economically competitive place in the world to do business, not just to raise corporate profits, but to increase wages for working people across America.

Among those eight steps, which include immigration reform, responsible Federal budgeting, simplification of Federal regulation, and investing in infrastructure and research, is tax reform.

A modern Tax Code for the United States should foster business development and innovation, support hard-working families, and create opportunities for Americans to prosper in a 21st century economy.

The current Tax Code is a complicated collection of outdated provisions riddled with loopholes in serious need of comprehensive overhaul.

New Democrats have advocated for comprehensive tax reform while putting forward commonsense proposals to fix some of the most critical provisions in our Tax Code.

This includes Chairman RON KIND's proposal to promote American manufacturing and Representative PATRICK MURPHY's proposal to spur investment in startups.

New Democrats are working to reform our Tax Code and make America the most competitive place in the world to do business.

With more than 11 million immigrants forced to live in the shadows and countless other waiting in line outside the United States, it is clear America needs bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform.

As long as Congress continues to delay action on comprehensive reform, the United States continues to lose out on top talent from around the world, our economy suffers as bright minds go elsewhere, and families remain separated.

I have worked with New Democrat Coalition member JOAQUIN CASTRO on

one such effort to modernize and streamline the United States visa system.

Together, New Dems have advocated for a comprehensive solution that includes an earned path to citizenship and improved border security.

This is supported by groups from across the spectrum and will grow the economy, create good jobs, and reduce the budget deficit by \$200 billion and the debt in the first decade alone.

I yield to the gentleman from Washington State (Mr. KILMER).

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I want to speak further to some of the issues and ideas laid out in the New Democrat Coalition's American Prosperity Agenda.

I think one of the things I appreciate about the approach is it understands that there is not a silver bullet to getting this economy moving again. It is more like silver buckshot.

Frankly, there is a whole bunch of things that we have to do to get our economy ready for success in the 21st century and have it be an economy that works for everybody.

One of the things when I am home in Washington State that I hear quite a bit about is adequate investment in our roads and our bridges and our basic infrastructure, everything from transportation infrastructure to energy infrastructure. I know this is not always the most exciting subject.

I have often pointed out that infrastructure is a Latin word, "structure" meaning structure and "infra" meaning boring, but it is actually incredibly important.

We know that when we saw a bridge actually go down on Interstate 5 over the Skagit River just a couple of years ago.

We know that when, in many parts of my State and, frankly, in many parts of this country, speed limit signs are only there for nostalgic purposes because we are simply sitting in traffic and not able to get our goods to market.

So the New Democrat Coalition has called for an approach to modernizing our roads and bridges, but also modernizing our communications networks and our power grid to help drive economic growth and make it easier for everyone to do business in the United States.

The reality is there are too many parts of this country where it is either too difficult to get goods to market or, in a 21st century economy where one of the most important ways of connecting people is through technology, where people simply lack access to high-speed Internet.

I represent an area where about a third of the district I represent is rural and we continue to see folks who don't have access to high-speed Internet.

It makes it much more difficult to start a business or for students to do research on a project. As a consequence, it makes it much more difficult for our country to compete.

It is why the American Prosperity Agenda calls for a new approach of making smart investments in that basic infrastructure.

I actually wanted to speak to one more issue that is part of the American Prosperity Agenda. That is a focus on small-business ownership, and there are a number of pieces as part of that.

Congresswoman DELBENE, also of my State, has a bill that is focused on women's small-business ownership. Congressman HIMES of Connecticut is focused on issues around cybersecurity.

I have been working on legislation, along with Congressman HANNA of New York, focused on providing resources to small businesses that are working to combat cyber attack.

The reality is we know that small businesses are a key part of our economic future. You often hear that small businesses are the backbone of our economy. I like that saying. I think that is a good saying.

I always say that small businesses are our star running backs. They are Marshawn Lynch. They are who we should have handed the ball off to at the end of the Super Bowl a couple years ago.

I say that because, if you look at how the United States has generally made it out of recessions, it is not our largest employers that are the ones who are pulling us out of recessions. It is our small businesses that are racking up the tough yards and scoring the touchdowns.

I think one of the fundamental roles of the Federal Government, at the very least, is to get out of the way of our star running back, but, ideally, to do some blocking for them and to call some plays for them and enable them to score some touchdowns.

So a lot of the focus of the American Prosperity Agenda is to make it easier for entrepreneurs to succeed, whether that be to raise capital or to start a business or to combat hurdles that might present barriers to their business's success, like potential cyber attacks.

That is an important part of this agenda, and I think it is important to speak to that. Because, again, as we look at how to grow this economy, I think the small businesses of our country that already exist and those that are yet to be created are going to be an important part of that solution.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, we have heard an introduction as to how New Democrats are working to expand entrepreneurship, increase exports, invest in research and infrastructure, and set up Americans for success in the new economy.

Our economy isn't going to stop changing, and neither should our efforts to find the most innovative, effective solutions for adapting to those changes.

The Harvard Business School's United States Competitive Project has outlined eight actions it recommends that Congress take to make America

the most economically competitive place in the world to do business, not just to raise corporate profits, but to increase wages for working people across America.

Those include New Democrat priorities like tax reform, responsible Federal budgeting, simplifying Federal regulation, investing in infrastructure and research, and fixing our broken immigration system.

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I want to thank all the members of the New Democrat Coalition for their proposals and progress to increase prosperity and help hardworking Americans thrive in the changing global economy with more jobs, more skills, and more wealth.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 636. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes.

THE WRETCHED STATE OF RACIAL RELATIONS IN AMERICA TODAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to discuss something that may not otherwise be discussed this year in this Congress: the wretched state of racial relations in America today.

We passed a bill here about a month ago in the House of Representatives to eliminate the term "Oriental" from the law books. I submit that eliminating a term does not eliminate the racism that embodies that term, and I think it is about time that we recognize what this problem is, the fact that it still festers in America, and give some thought to what we can do about it.

I want to begin by relating two stories, both from my home State of Florida. The first one involves a 16-year-old girl. She was White. She had an encounter with police officers who were also White. She lived on the Atlantic Coast, which is largely White, and I heard about this from a friend of a friend.

What happened to her is that her parents got a call from the police officers late one night. They didn't tell her why they were calling, but they said: You have to come to this location. We need to talk to you about your daughter. She is here with us.

The mother went to that location, spoke to the White police officers.

They informed her that her daughter had been drinking in a car with her boyfriend, and they needed to take her home. She was shaken up a bit, so was the daughter, but everybody ended that night alive.

Now I want to tell you a different story. It didn't end so nicely. This was on the Gulf Coast, the coast of Florida that is heavily African American; and on the Gulf Coast one night there was a theme park, you could call it a fairgrounds, that was open to all students without having to pay. They could go on the rides, enjoy themselves one day each year. This is done in Tampa.

Now, teenagers being teenagers, some of them got a little bit out of hand. Many African Americans frequent that area, and they were out in force that night at the fairgrounds. There was a great deal of friction that night between the White police force and the African American teenagers who were there that night.

Some of them actually started running around, might have bumped into a few other people as they were running around. Someone started to scream. You will notice that apart from that physical contact, nothing I described is actually against the law, like, for instance, drinking in a car with your boyfriend when you are 16 years old.

A number of them, about a hundred African American youths, were arrested that night 2 years ago in Tampa. The White police officers insisted that they strip to the waist. That apparently was for the purpose, in the minds of the police officers, to see whether they had gang colors on their bodies—at least, that is what they said.

Now, one of them, Andrew Joseph III, actually hadn't done any of that running around, any of that screaming, any of that casual bumping. He hadn't done any of that, but he saw his classmates being arrested. He came to see what was going on. He saw that one of them had his hat fall off his head. He went over and he picked it up. The officer said: I didn't say you could do that.

They arrested him for picking up his friend's hat. They took Andrew Joseph, a 14-year-old boy, 2 miles away from the fairgrounds, and they pushed him out of the police car and said: You are on your own.

A 14-year-old boy who has parents who were reachable by a telephone, they pushed him out in a neighborhood he had never seen before, never been to before, had no idea where he was. He remembered that his father was going to pick him up at the fairgrounds. He felt pretty shaken up because he had just been arrested and was told to strip to the waist and, frankly, felt humiliated.

He found his way, as best he could, back to the fairgrounds 2 miles away. He didn't call his parents because, frankly, he was scared, embarrassed, didn't want them to know. He almost got as far as the fairgrounds. He tried to cross the interstate highway to get to the fairgrounds. In the midst of traffic in both directions, he was struck by